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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

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Town hall meeting addresses, raises concerns about proposed medical cannabis tax

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College on Tuesday, Oct 29, hosted a town hall meeting for public discussion on Local Amendment 1 that would add 15% to the tax currently charged on medical cannabis products sold in the county. The current tax rate is 9% on retail sales and 9% on medical cannabis businesses. The panel included Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker, » PAGE 5



NOAH GALILEE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right are WellStone COO Chris Van Dyke, Cullman County Sheriff's Office Victim Services Capt. Ed Potter, Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker and Joey Roberston of Wagon Trail Hemp Farms (speaking). At right behind the podium is moderator Joey Orr.

Restoring Women Outreach opens 5th area home



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Members of the community joined Restoring Women Outreach for the Destiny House Open House on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024.

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Local nonprofit Restoring Women Outreach on Tuesday, Oct. 29, hosted an open house for Destiny House, the newest of its homes across the community that house women in recovery. This home will house women with at least two years of sobriety and has been beautifully decorated by six local interior designers.

RWO Executive Director Restoring Women Outreach Carol Berry and the late Dorthy Frady founded the nonprofit in 2011 to support women recovering from substance use disorder.

"Today I was overwhelmed with gratitude as our community came by and showed their support for Restoring Women Outreach, Inc.," Berry said. "It was humbling to say the least - so many individuals and organizations taking time out of their busy day to cheer us on, thank us and let us know they support our vision. It gives me the confidence to look toward a new chapter at RWO and the ability to help more women in the future."



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Rooms at Destiny House were decorated and sponsored by local designers and other businesses.

Berry said RWO's program has one of the highest success rates in the state, and she was proud to announce the opening of the program's fifth home in Cullman.

"This new home is a significant milestone for our community, offering a supportive environment for women in long-term recovery," » PAGE 2

Cullman City Council approves multiple industrial tax abatements

» PAGE 8

Good Hope City Council approves resolution for traffic study

» PAGE 8

CPD Trunk or Treat sees largest crowd to-date



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman Police Department held its community favorite trunk or treat event on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024. » PAGE 8

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Holly D.



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Holly D. » PAGE 8

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Oct. 30

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Oct. 30, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; **FTA** = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No arrests or incidents reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Oct. 29

• harassment; person; Morningside Dr. SW

• duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '94 Ford F150; $400; 4th St. SW

ARRESTS

Oct. 28-29

Smith, Rickey D.; 60

• possession of marijuana-2nd degree

• possession of drug paraphernalia

• tampering with physical evidence

• resisting arrest

Camacho, Raven E.; 31

• FTA – insurance violation

Netherton, Kevin S.; 45

• FTA – driving while suspended

Copen III, Michael A.; 35

• GJ – retail theft of property-3rd degree

• GJ – organized retail theft

Booker, Charles R.; 59

• theft of property-1st degree

Nelson, Michael A.; 27

• GJ – unlawful breaking and entering of motor vehicle

• GJ – theft of property-3rd degree

• GJ – fraudulent use of credit/debit card

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

Find arrest and incident reports online Monday-Friday at www.CullmanTribune.com.

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Veterans with Christ hosting inaugural Fishing with Veterans event Nov. 11

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Veterans with Christ will host the inaugural Fishing with Veterans event at Smith Lake Park on Monday, Nov.11, from 1-5 p.m. The event is free for all veterans and their families and offers veterans a day on the lake, connecting with other veterans and volunteer anglers for an afternoon of fishing and fellowship.

Veterans interested in fishing are invited to bring a valid veteran ID. All participants must have a valid Alabama fishing license. The first 20 veterans who contact Veterans with Christ will secure a spot on a boat, with any additional trips depending on available fishing boats.

"Veterans with Christ (inaugural) Fishing with Veterans is a free community outreach event to connect local veterans with local fishermen, an opportunity to meet other veterans, and time to experience the joy of fishing on beautiful Lewis Smith Lake," according to the event flyer.

Local anglers are encouraged to volunteer boats and time to take a veteran fishing, creating more opportunities for veterans who wish to participate.

Family members not joining the fishing trips can still enjoy the festivities onshore, which will feature live entertainment by Juice, a Marine veteran, and a variety of food offerings from the Food on the Fly food truck.

Additionally, organizers are looking for community members willing to bring extra rods and reels who are willing to teach children basic fishing skills while onsite. Veteran support groups and community organizations are welcome to attend to lend their support or even join a fishing trip with a veteran.

For more information or to register, veterans and anglers should contact Zack Ingram at 360-480-4939. For more information on Veterans with Christ, contact Larry Burns at 205-842-6541. Smith Lake Park is located at 403 County Road 386, Cullman, AL 35057.

Home (from Front)

she shared.

RWO Board Member Bridgette Walker said the group was excited to host the Destiny House open house, to celebrate the collaborative effort that went into revitalizing the historic home and to raise awareness about RWO.

"Numerous individuals and businesses came together to lovingly restore this space, which serves as a sanctuary for healing and renewal for women in need," Walker said.

"Their hard work and creativity deserve recognition. Additionally, this open house aims to introduce the community to the mission of RWO, founded by local women dedicated to supporting those whose lives have been disrupted by substance use disorders. Join us in celebrating this important work and learning more about how RWO is making a difference in Cullman."

The house is approximately 1,595 square feet.

The living room was decorated by Donna Richter and sponsored by Donna Richter Interiors, Tim Richter and Village Furniture & Gifts.

The room is dedicated to the memory of Sarah Marie Milligan and in honor of Wendy Warren Woods.

The kitchen was decorated by Amy Wood and sponsored by The Added Touch at Cullman Cabinet. It is dedicated to the memory of Danny Elwin McAfee.

The master bedroom was decorated by Libby Hill and sponsored by the Cullman Women's League and White Willow.

Bedroom No. 1 was decorated by Jimmy Drake and sponsored by J. Drake Salon. It is dedicated in memory of Amy Drake.

Bedroom No. 2 and the main bathroom were decorated by Beth Veigl and sponsored by Cullman Vacation Rentals. They are dedicated in memory of Patrick James Kelly.

The front porch was decorated by Kim Self and sponsored by the Sacred Heart Altar Society and the Knights of Columbus Chapter 1484. It is dedicated in memory of CJ Berry.

Find out more about Restoring Women Outreach at www.restoringwomenoutreach.org.

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75 County Road 1339
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www.cullmanstockyard.com
Hoagy and Callahan Parrish
Cattle Sale – Tuesday - 8:30 a.m.

Fire Danger Advisory expands to all Alabama counties

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — With worsening drought conditions and no significant accumulation of rain in the long-range forecast, the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) has placed all counties across the state under a Fire Danger Advisory. This advisory is effective immediately and will remain in place until enough precipitation is received to improve drought impacts. Dead pines in the forests that were devastated by southern pine beetles this summer are adding to the increased wildfire potential, as well as challenges to containment efforts.

Abnormally warm and dry conditions in the last month have led to a steady rise in wildfire activity across Alabama.

In the past 30 days, 246 wildfires have burned nearly 3,000 acres.

A Fire Danger Advisory indicates that fuels conducive to the start and spread of wildfire are more readily available during a drought. Although the AFC is not currently issuing a burn restriction, the agency strongly discourages any outdoor burning until conditions improve.



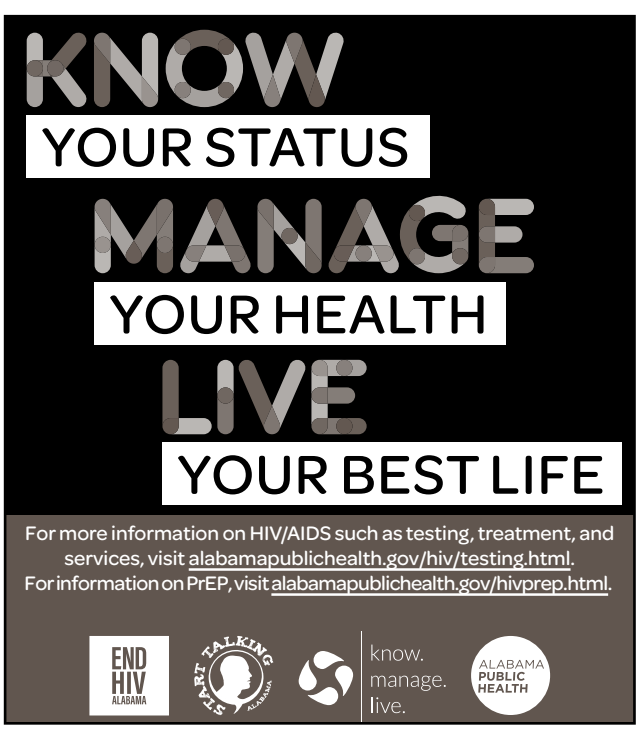

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submit your calendar items or public notices to wendy@cullmantribune.com

The Crossing Food Bank
The Crossing is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m. We are located at 1503 Second St. SW, Cullman, AL 35055 (in the Housing Authority).

Cullman Low Vision Support Group Meetings
Third Tuesday of every month, from 10-11:30 a.m., at the Alabama Career Center, 1201 Katherine St. NW in Cullman. Contact Olivia Wade, case manager, at 256-389-2502.

Baileyton Bargain Days
First Saturday of each month from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the old Baileyton fire station next to the town's park. Beauty and health products, toys, home goods, pet items, food and many everyday items. A donation of $20 will allow a shopper to fill up a bag, and for $40 a shopper can fill a large box. Some of the items of greater value will require a larger donation. There will be some restrictions and product limits on the items. Cash and checks accepted. Proceeds will be used for park improvements and capital improvements for the town.

Alcoholics Anonymous
The Grace of God group of Alcoholics Anonymous has open AA meetings (all are welcome) Mondays and Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. at the Carriage House, located next to Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE Cullman. Contact phone numbers: 256-347-1097, 256-841-2209 or 256-708-1340

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Friday, Nov. 1 - Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Bring a dish, dessert or drink for a potluck meal at 5:45 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
• Saturday, Nov. 2 - 8 a.m. Men's breakfast 10 a.m. Foundry Farm outreach
• Sunday, Nov. 3 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-930-9680 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11.

Church Events: At the Foot of the Cross Church
• 2 miles north of Alabama Highway 157 on Eva Road, on the left
• Saturday, Nov. 2, at noon Pray Walk for Jesus in Eva, with singing, meet at Eva. All churches invited.
• Sunday, Nov. 10, at 11 a.m. Christmas Concert with One Accord
• Saturday, Nov. 16, at 6 p.m. Singing with Joyful Hearts

Alcoholics Anonymous
Sundays, 3 p.m. at Cullman First Church of the Nazarene, 5415 Alabama Highway 157. CLOSED literature study. Handicap accessible.

TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Meetings
Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m., at the Donald E. Green Adult Active Center, 1625 Cleveland Ave. SW. The first meeting is free. TOPS, a national program, is a hands-on/pounds-off approach to weight loss and management through weekly meetings providing information, accountability, support and encouragement where you make the changes that make sense to you.

Cullman NAR-ANON Group Meetings
The NAR-ANON family group meetings are a worldwide fellowship for those affected by someone else's addiction. We offer Help by sharing our experiences, strength and hope. We carry the message of hope by letting others know that they are not alone by practicing the 12 Steps of NAR-ANON and changing our own attitudes. We Respect Your Anonymity. Our program is not a religious one, but a spiritual way of life. Meetings will be held at The Ruehl Building (Family Life Center of St. John's Church) Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. Contact Jamie Weathersby Smith 256-708-7122 or Don or Nancy McKenzie 256-736-3327 or 256-736-3470 for more information.

Cullman Al-Anon Meetings
The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of friends and family whose lives have been affected by alcoholism. The Cullman Serenity Al-Anon Group meets each Monday at noon at 1519 St. Joseph Dr. NE. There is also a Zoom meeting each Tuesday at noon. The Courage to Change Al-Anon Family Group meets on Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church at 305 Arnold St. NE in the Carriage House, located between the church and the Arnold House on the corner. For more information call 256-734-2231 or 256-531-4429.

Master's Hand Food Pantry at The Link
• 708 Ninth St. SE, Cullman, AL 35055
• Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
• Closed for lunch noon-1 p.m.

Mt. Zion Church Food Bazaar
Friday, Nov. 1, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Mt. Zion Church, located on U.S. Highway 31 North next to CATA in Vinemont. Baked goods for sale and lunch will be served from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Carry out available. Proceeds will benefit the Mt. Zion UMW (women's group).

Chambers Family Reunion
Sunday, Nov. 3, at the Berlin Community Center (U.S. Highway 278 East), beginning at 11 a.m., with dinner at noon. Bring several of your favorite food dishes, family pictures, stories and other items that relate to the family past and present. Family friends are also invited. Contact Rodger Walling for furth information at 256-734-8235.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
OCTOBER 31, 2024

STATE VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Addison, Arab drop semifinal matches; West Point falls to UMS-Wright in quarterfinals

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — This year's AHSAA State Volleyball Tournament resumed at the Birmingham Crossplex Wednesday morning, and we had three local teams on the court competing for a chance to play in the state finals. In Class 1A, the Addison Bulldogs swept past Brantley to advance to the semifinals and in Class 5A, Arab downed Demopolis 3-0 to punch its ticket to the semifinals. West Point was on the court competing in the 5A quarterfinals as well but fell to UMS-Wright 3-0, bringing the Warriors' postseason run to an end.

Addison and Arab were back on the court for their respective semifinal matches Wednesday afternoon. Another impressive Addison season came to an end with a 3-1 loss to University Charter 3-1 in the 1A semifinals and in the 5A semifinals, Arab fall behind 2-0 and rallied to force a tiebreaker set with Faith Academy. However, the Rams edged the Knights 15-13 in the final set to take a thriller over Arab 3-2.

Addison 3 – Brantley 0 (25-14, 25-13, 25-8) (1A Quarterfinals)

Addison made its return to the 1A state tournament Wednesday morning and the Bulldogs got their day started with a dominant performance against Brantley. The score was locked at 6 early in the first set but it didn't take long for Addison to take control. Addison pulled ahead 15-9 midway through the set and outscored Brantley 10-5 the rest of the way to take the first set 25-14.

Addison jumped out to a 5-0 lead to start the second set, but Brantley was able to cut the deficit to 9-4. An 8-5 scoring run gave Addison a 17-9 lead later in the set and they were able to eventually pull away and claim a 25-13 win in the second set.

The third set was a dominant one for Addison. After taking a 4-2 lead early on, Addison scored the next 12 points to take a commanding, 16-2 lead. Addison stayed in front 20-4 as the set continued and went on to complete the sweep with a 25-8 win in the third set.

University Charter 3 – Addison 1 (18-25, 18-25, 25-23, 23-25) (1A Semifinals)

The Trail Blazers managed to pull ahead of Addison 18-12 in the late stages of the opening set. Trailing 22-13, the Bulldogs scored five straight to cut into the lead but it was too little, too late and University Charter won the first set 25-18.

The Trail Blazers jumped out to a 7-4 lead early in the second set and were able to stay in front 11-4 as the set went on.

University Charter held a 16-10 lead midway through the set and pulled away to win it 25-18, taking a 2-0 lead over the Bulldogs in the match.

Addison responded in the third set. Neither team led by more than two at any point in the set and after claiming a late, 23-21 lead, the Bulldogs were able to hold onto a 25-23 win to take the third set.

The Trail Blazers got off to a fast start in the fourth set, building an early 6-0 lead over Addison. University Charter led by as many as nine at one point in the set, but the Bulldogs would not go down quietly, battling back to make it 15-11 and eventually tying things up at 20. However, Addison was unable to complete the comeback and the Trail Blazers secured a spot in the state finals with a 25-23 win in the fourth set.

Arab 3 – Demopolis 0 (25-15, 25-6, 25-14) (5A Quarterfinals)

The Knights built a 13-5 lead early in the opening set, but Demopolis battled back to cut the lead to 14-10 midway through the set. However, Arab scored 11 of the next 16 points to pull away and take the first set 25-15.

The Knights dominated the second set, jumping out to an early, 9-3 lead that grew to 12-4 as the set went on. Arab led 19-5 at one point and finished strong to claim a 25-6 win in the second set.

The third set was tighter in the early stages. The score was knotted at 3 early on and the Knights held a slim, 7-5 lead as the set progressed. A 4-1 run put Arab in front 11-6 midway through the set and was able to stay in front 16-11. That's when the Knights took over and put together a 9-3 scoring run to wrap up a 25-14 win in the third set and secure a spot in the 5A semifinals.

Faith Academy 3 – Arab 2 (18-25, 22-25, 25-13, 25-15, 13-15) (5A State Semifinals)

The Knights held the lead to just a few points throughout their first set with the Rams, but Faith Academy was able to pull ahead 18-12 as the set went on. The Rams extended their lead to 21-13 and held off a late push from the Knights to secure a 25-18 win in the opening set.

Faith Academy jumped out to a 7-0 lead to start the second set, but Arab battled back to cut the deficit to 9-4 and eventually tied things up at 12. The Knights took their first lead of the set at 14-13 but a 6-2 scoring run put the Rams back in front 19-16. Faith Academy led 22-17 at one point before Arab rallied to cut the lead to 22-21 but it wasn't enough to catch up to the Rams and Faith Academy moved ahead 2-0 with a 25-22 win in the set.

The score was knotted at 5 early in the third set but Arab quickly pulled ahead to take the lead and never gave it back.

The Knights put together a 9-0 scoring run to build a 17-7 lead later in the set and kept their championship hopes alive with a 25-13 win.

Arab's momentum continued rolling into the next set and the Knights jumped out to a 9-4 lead. Arab led 17-11 at one point and evened the match up at two sets apiece with a 25-15 win in the fourth set.

The fifth and final set was the closest between these two teams. Arab got off to a 4-1 start, but Faith Academy bounced back to tie the score at 5.

The Rams pulled ahead 9-6 before the Knights rallied to tie things up at 11 later in the set.

With the score tied at 13, Arab needed just two more points to advance to the state finals but Faith Academy was able to put the points on the board first to win the set and take a thriller over the Knights 3-2.

UMS Wright 3 – West Point 0 (11-25, 12-25, 15-25) (5A Quarterfinals)

The Warriors fell behind 4-2 early in the first set and UMS-Wright was able to pull ahead with an 8-3 lead as the set went on. The Bulldogs led 18-7 at one point later in the set and would eventually go on to take the opening set 25-11.

UMS-Wright jumped out to another early lead in the second set, moving out in front of the Warriors 11-4.

A 7-4 scoring run from the Bulldogs made it 18-8 and they continued to pull away to claim a 25-12 win in the second set.

West Point battled back in the third set. After falling behind early, the Warriors rallied to trim the lead to 15-12 at one point but UMS-Wright responded with a 7-1 run to take a 20-13 lead and went on to win third set 25-15, eliminating West Point from this year's 5A State Tournament.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Addison Bulldogs fell to University Charter in the Class 1A State Semifinals Wednesday afternoon.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Arab Knights fell to Faith Academy in the Class 5A State Semifinals Wednesday afternoon.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The West Point Warriors fell to UMS-Wright in the 5A State Quarterfinals 3-0 Wednesday morning.

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Wallace State Theatre staging production of 'Peter and the Starcatcher' Nov. 8-10

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Wallace State Community College Theatre Department has announced show times for its upcoming production of "Peter and the Starcatcher." The musical production will be held Friday-Sunday, Nov. 8-10, at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre in the Garlan E. Gudger Sr. Student Center. Shows will be held Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Admission is a $10 donation for adults, $5 for students and children under 12.

A Tony Award-winning play, "Peter and the Starcatcher" tells the story of the origins of Peter Pan from a miserable orphan to The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up. Written by Rick Elice, the story is a wildly theatrical adaptation of the best-selling novel by Dave Berry and Ridley Pearson, with stage direction by Roger Rees and Alex Timbers and music by Wayne Barker.

From marauding pirates and jungle tyrants to unwilling comrades and unlikely heroes, "Peter and the Starcatcher" playfully explores the depths of greed and despair...and the bonds of friendship, duty and love.

"This show is a high-energy, fast-paced adventure for both the actors and audience," said Angela Green, director and Theatre program instructor.

"The set, designed by Mark Eccleston, is like a playscape jungle gym for the actors. I wanted this production to feel like a show you might have put on in the backyard for the neighborhood. As if some things, like a treehouse, could be turned into a pirate ship and curtains could be fashioned out of old bedsheets."

James Knear of Arab will star as Peter, with Tristan Moseley of Mobile as Prentiss and Em Sharp of Bremen as Ted.

Elijah Hammick of Arab will portray the pirate Black Stache, with Ella Gibbs of Arab as Smee, Brynn McCain of Arab as Sanchez, Joshia Johnson of Cullman as Greggors and Breanna Briscoe of Arley, Kenzie Johnson of Pinson and Rebekah Clay of Homewood as additional pirates. Briscoe, Johnson and McCain will also act as Natives/Mollusks.

Other cast members include Trae Barker of Addison as Mack and a Native/Mollusks, Emma Sue Carnes of Hartselle as Teacher Mermaid and Sailor, Alli Bess Chenault of Moulton as Mrs. Bumbrake, Avery Drake Vinemont as Bill Slank, Colter Drake of Vinemont as Lord Aster, Illora Goodwin of Cullman as a Sailor and Native/Mollusks, Aiden Helms of Cullman as a Sailor, Ariel Jacobs of Cullman as a Sailor, Andy McRae of Cullman as Grempkin, Haley Newman, all of Cullman, as Sailor Cade Reid of Cullman as Captain Scott, ReAnna Rusk of Fairview as Molly Aster, and Reese Sheffield of Cullman as Alf.

For information about "Peter and the Starcatcher" and other Fine and Performing Arts performances, contact Amy Seymore at 256-382-8277 or amy.seymore@wallacestate.edu.

Painted pumpkins on display at library

Jen Baker
jen@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Creatively painted pumpkins are on display in the main branch of the Cullman County Public Library following last week's Pumpkin Painting Contest.

"Kids of all ages came by and painted a pumpkin, and we put them all into a contest," said Cullman County Public Library System Assistant Director Shelby Creekmore, who said the library provided the pumpkins.

Lucia Scalero won the event, with her pumpkin painted to look like the cartoon character Stitch.

She took home a Samsung Galaxy tablet as her prize.

Most of the other pumpkins are still on display in the library.

"I love our Cheshire Cat. It's really cute," said Creekmore.

"They've been very well loved in the library. The kids this morning at storytime were really enjoying them."

The library is located at 200 Clark St. NE.



JEN BAKER

Painted pumpkins are seen at the Cullman County Public Library in downtown Cullman.

Meeting (from Front)

WellStone COO Chris Van Dyke, Cullman County Sheriff's Office Victim Services Capt. Ed Potter and Joey Roberston of Wagon Trail Hemp Farms.

"Medical cannabis product" is defined in the original 2023 bill as "any product lawfully sold in the county in a dispensary licensed by the Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission." Those voting yes on the amendment are choosing to vote for the tax, while those voting no would be voting against the tax.

As proposed, the Cullman County District Attorney's Office would get two-thirds of the proceeds to use for personnel. The remaining one-third would be used at the discretion of the legislative delegation for mental health issues.

A bill (2023 House Bill 469) allowing the vote was sponsored by Rep. Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope; Rep. Tim Wadsworth, R-Arley; and Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview.

Text of the proposed amendment

(a) Effective on the first day of the second month after the ratification of this amendment, there is levied, in addition to all other taxes of every kind now imposed by law, an additional tax on the sales of all medical cannabis products sold at retail in Cullman County at the rate of 15 percent of the gross proceeds of the sales.

(b) All provisions of the state sales and use tax statutes with respect to the payment, assessment, and collection of the state sales and use tax, making of reports, keeping and preserving records, penalties for failure to pay the tax, adopting rules with respect to the state sales and use tax, and the administration and enforcement of the state sales and use tax statutes which are not inconsistent with this amendment shall apply to the tax levied herein. All provisions of the state sales and use tax statutes that are made applicable by this amendment to the tax levied under this amendment, and to the administration and enforcement of this amendment, are incorporated by reference and made a part of this section as if fully set forth herein.

(c) The tax shall be collected, as the Cullman County Commission from time to time may determine, either by the commission or by any person, whether public or private, with which the commission may contract to collect the tax levied herein.

(d) All amounts collected by the commission from the tax shall be remitted by the county treasurer as follows:

1. Sixty-seven percent to the District Attorney of the Thirty-second Judicial Circuit for personnel purposes.

2. Thirty-three percent to the Cullman County Legislative Delegation to be used at their discretion on mental health issues.

(e) For purposes of this section, "medical cannabis product" means any product lawfully sold in the county in a dispensary licensed by the Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission.

Panelists speak

At Tuesday's town hall, Crocker spoke about the backlog of cases he "inherited" when he became district attorney, saying that the revenue generated by the proposed tax will allow the hiring of more prosecutors. He pointed to a 2017 murder case that his office recently completed, saying that justice "shouldn't have to wait four, five or six years," and adding, "Our citizens deserve better than that." He also noted hundreds of mental health-related calls processed just by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office in the last year, arguing that the tax will benefit more than just his office.

Later in the discussion, Crocker said that, once the needs of his office are met, he would be open to sharing surplus funds with mental health services to meet more of their needs. Asked how residents could be sure that money designated to be used at the legislative delegation's discretion would actually be used in Cullman County, he said that, based on statements made by Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry following a mental health related crime in 2017, "Our legislative delegation should be well aware of the problems and needs of Cullman County."

Van Dyke talked about a crucial need for both crisis care and residential care facilities for victims of mental illness, pointing to the current high cost of housing and lack of affordable housing in the area. He noted that WellStone has crisis response teams in Cullman but no local crisis care facility, requiring local responders to transport victims to Huntsville, and said that his priorities if funded would be to provide the Cullman area with both residential and crisis care facilities.

Van Dyke also addressed the question about the destination of mental health funds, saying that expenditures are public record and that he had no concerns about what the delegation would do with the funds.

From the standpoint of both victims' services and the sheriff's office, Potter also talked about local mental health needs, saying, "We don't have services here that we need." Asked to speculate about the potential costs and benefits of medical cannabis in Cullman County, he expressed concern that more marijuana might mean more accidents, as well as an "increase in mental health needs, increase in law enforcement needs, increase in DHR needs."

Robertson spoke out clearly against the proposed tax increase, noting that it was "trying to tax medicine for patients."

He said he would support any kind of tax authorities might want to put on recreational marijuana before reading a long list of medical conditions (available at www.albme.gov/licensing/md-do/registrations/medical-cannabis) and how affected patients could benefit from medical cannabis.

He called the proposed fee an "unreasonably high tax," and expressed "hope that there might be a different way."

Asked about the potential impact of the tax, he said that the addition to regular sales taxes and the current 9% state cannabis tax would place a 33% tax on medical marijuana in Cullman County, making it "unobtainable for many patients who are struggling to make ends meet."

During the public question and answer session, Robertson suggested that, if the process could start over, instead of taxing a resource with unknown revenue potential, the amendment should propose a 3% increase to the existing tax on "hard liquor." He estimated, based on last year's revenue, that the county could generate $275,000 per year by doing so.

Multiple local residents with medical conditions being treated by cannabis raised the question of the discrepancy in taxation between recreational alcohol and medical marijuana during the public question and answer session.

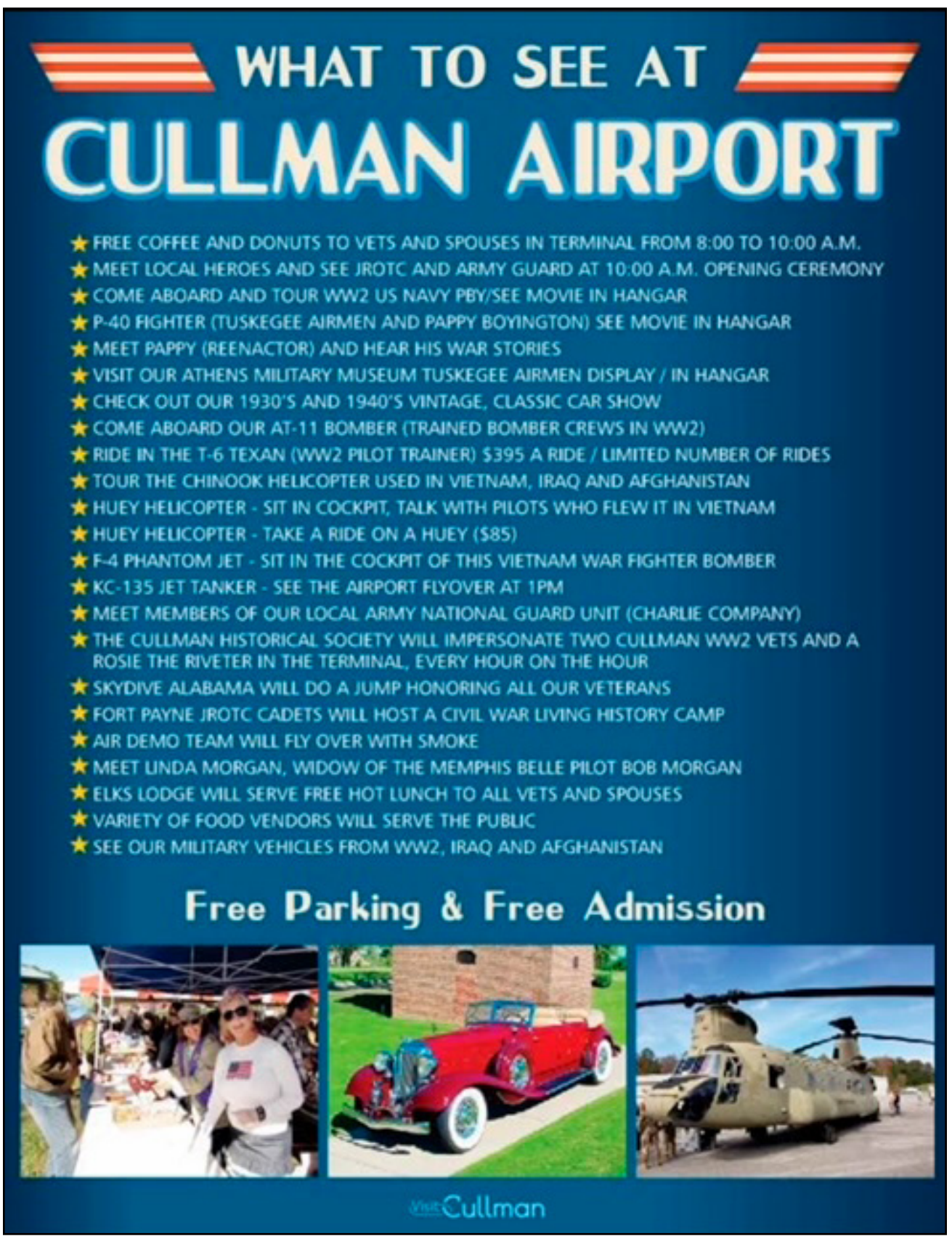
Asked why alcohol, with a dangerous track record in recreational use, would be taxed at a substantially lower rate than medical cannabis, none of the panelists initially responded. Crocker then took the microphone and pointed out that alcohol taxes, like the proposed cannabis tax, were placed on ballots "for the people to decide."

Asked "How much money does the DA need to do his job," Crocker responded that his office got $463,000 last year from the State, and that he will get "a little over $500,000" this year.

He said that he wanted to hire four more prosecutors, and that doing so would cost an additional $100,000 per prosecutor.

Asked if the proposed tax could impact his choice of location for his medical cannabis dispensary, Robertson said that, while he wanted to support his home community, it would make him consider locating in Decatur or Jasper.

Cullman County voters will have the opportunity to vote on Local Amendment 1 in the Tuesday, Nov. 5, General Election. Polls will be open from 7 a.m-7 p.m.



LEGALS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

VANDY HOLAWAY, PLAINTIFF,
vs.
DAWN PERRY, DEFENDANT(S)
DV-2024-900265

NOTICE OF FILING LAWSUIT

The above listed Defendant, Dawn Perry, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer Plaintiff's complaint for property and rent ($6300) by the 20th day of November 2024, or thereafter a judgment by default may be rendered against the Defendant in case No. DV-2024-900265, District Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

Done this 8th day of October, 2024.

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk of Cullman County

Attorney for Plaintiff
Melvin Hasting
P.O. Box 517
Cullman, AL 35056

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
JAMES LEE BROWN,
Deceased.
CASE NO.: PC2024-328

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration of deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 29th day of October, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

JUDY KURI
Administrator

Seth B. Thompson
Attorney for Estate of James Lee Brown, Deceased
201 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Telephone: 256-734-4591
Facsimile: 866-826-4785

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
GERALDINE ROBERTSON CORNELIUS SWEATMON,
Deceased.
CASE NO PC 2023-374

NOTICE OF HEARING
VERIFIED PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: **KRYSTAL CORNELIUS, CODY CORNELIUS, NICHOLE HOLMES, AMY KILGORE, STEPHANIE KILGORE AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES**

Verified Petition for Probate of Will filed by David Christopher Cornelius, Petitioner, by and through Attorney, David Lee Jones, has been scheduled for the **10th day of December, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Cullman County Courthouse
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Done this the 29th day of October, 2024.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper

David Lee Jones
Attorney for Petitioner
PO Box 940
Guntersville, Alabama 35976

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
JOHN L. BISHOP,
Deceased.
CASE NO PC 2022-274

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

TO: **JOHN BISHOP, JEREMY BISHOP, JASON BISHOP AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES**

Petition for Final Settlement filed by Doris J. Bishop, Petitioner, by and through Attorney, T. Deven Moore, has been scheduled for the **17th day of December, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Cullman County Courthouse
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Done this the 23rd day of October, 2024.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper

T. Deven Moore
Attorney for Petitioner
PO Box 906
Montrose, Alabama 36559

DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY

500 2nd Ave SW
Room 303
Cullman, Al 35055

Bobby Fuller
(PLAINTIFF)
VS
Andy Clark
(DEFENDANT)
CASE NO: SM-2024-900485

NOTICE OF FILING OF LAW SUIT

DEFENDANT(S), Andy Clark, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the complaint brought against him/her by the PLAINTIFF, Bobby Fuller, for $2700.00 plus court cost, cause of action being: Borrowed money to purchase truck.

ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT MUST BE MADE BY THE SAID DEFENDANT on or before the November 30,2024, or a default may be rendered against him/her in the above styled cause.

DATED THIS THE 29th of OCTOBER, 2024.

Lisa McSwain Dn
LISA MCSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
WILLIAM LEE BALLEW,
Deceased.
CASE NO.: PC 2024-349

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to ADELINE BALLEW as Personal Representative of the Estate of WILLIAM LEE BALLEW deceased, on the 21st day of October, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same be barred.

Adeline Ballew
Personal Representative

Pamela E. Nail
Law Firm of Nail & Sparks, LLC
200 Second Avenue, Southwest
Cullman, Alabama 35055

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of
JOHN STEWART,
Deceased.
CASE NO. PC2023-414

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION OF PERSONAL REPRESENATIVE FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT and PETITION OF ADMINISTRATOR FOR FINAL DISCHARGE

TO: TONY LEE STEWART JR, TANYA LECOMPTE, TIMOTHY STEWART, TODD JOSEPH STEWART, TRACEY RANDA AND ANY OTHER NEXT OF KIN AND HEIRS OF JOHN STEWART, DECEASED.

Petition of Personal Representative for Final Settlement and *Petition of Administrator for Final Discharge* filed by Pamela E. Nail, Administrator, has been scheduled for the **12th day of December, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Cullman County Courthouse
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Done this the 29th day of October, 2024.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper.

PAMELA E. NAIL
Attorney for the Estate
200 Second Ave SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: ESTATE OF
MARY RUTH GREER, Deceased.
CASE NO: PC 2024-352

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to JANICE GREER LAMBERT, as Executor of the Estate of MARY RUTH GREER, Deceased, on the 11th day of October, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Janice Greer Lambert
JANICE GREER LAMBERT,
Personal Representative for the Estate of
Mary Ruth Greer, Deceased

Richard L. Collins
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 669
Cullman, Alabama 35056
256-739-1962

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate, Cullman, Alabama.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
JAMES MICHAEL ISRAEL,
Deceased.
CASE NO.: PC2024-290

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to Martha Jean Israel on the 23rd day of October, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

MARTHA JEAN ISRAEL
Administrator

Dan J. Willingham
FULLER, WILLINGHAM & CARTER, LLC
Attorney for Administrator
413 1st Avenue SW
Post Office Box 1213
Cullman, Alabama 35055-1213

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Matthew R Friedrich , And Kaitlyn Tasha Friedrich Husband And Wife to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Traditions Bank, its successors and assigns dated January 24, 2022; said mortgage being recorded on January 27, 2022, in Book 1999, Page 600 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Renasant Bank by assignment recorded in Deed Book 390, Page 946 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, ALABAMA.
The undersigned, Renasant Bank, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on the 14th day of November, 2024 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:
Lot 9 Lake Alaqua Subdivision as recorded in Map Record B-357A in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as 167 County Road 479, Hanceville, AL 35077.
Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.
Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.
Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.
The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

RENASANT BANK
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
505 20th Street North, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
(205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 24-06366AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
10/17/2024,10/24/2024,10/31/2024

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: ESTATE OF
EDDIE PAUL GREER, Deceased.
CASE NO: PC 2024-353

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to JANICE GREER LAMBERT, as Executor of the Estate of EDDIE PAUL GREER, Deceased, on the 11th day of October, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Janice Greer Lambert
JANICE GREER LAMBERT,
Personal Representative for the Estate of
Eddie Paul Greer, Deceased

Richard L. Collins
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 669
Cullman, Alabama 35056
256-739-1962

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate, Cullman, Alabama.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
EDWARD LEE LACKEY,
Deceased.
CASE NO.: PC 2024-143

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to JAY LACKEY as Personal Representative of the Estate of EDWARD LEE LACKEY, deceased, on the 15th day of October, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same be barred.

Jay Lackey
Personal Representative

Melvin Hasting
PO Box 517
Cullman, Alabama 35056

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

9STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Amanda Glassco A Widowed Woman to Citifinancial Corporation, LLC dated January 7, 2008; said mortgage being recorded on January 9, 2008, in Book 1550, Page 130 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to BRAVO Residential Funding Trust 2023-RPL1 by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2099, Page 722 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, ALABAMA.
The undersigned, BRAVO Residential Funding Trust 2023-RPL1, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on the 25th day of November, 2024 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:
BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 9 SOUTH, RANGE 5 WEST, THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 02' WEST A DISTANCE OF 198 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 40' EAST A DISTANCE OF 410 FEET TO A POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH 78 DEGREES 15' WEST, A DISTANCE OF 720 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 26 DEGREES 21' WEST, A DISTANCE OF 431.8 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 02' EAST A DISTANCE OF 250 FEET BACK TO POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 9 SOUTH, RANGE 5 WEST, CONTAINING SIX ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

LESS AND EXCEPT: ALL THAT PART OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 9 SOUTH, RANGE 5 WEST, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE PURPORTED NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID FORTY; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 02' 00" WEST A DISTANCE OF 198.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 40' 00" EAST A DISTANCE OF 660.00 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 23' 02" WEST A DISTANCE OF 234.11 TO A SET 5/8 INCH REBAR IRON AND THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE FROM SAID TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING CONTINUE NORTH 89 DEGREES 23' 02" WEST A DISTANCE OF 636.44 FEET TO A SET 5/8 INCH REBAR IRON ON THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD NO. 1082; THENCE NORTH 18 DEGREES 22' 00" EAST ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY A DISTANCE OF 130.53 FEET TO A SET 5/8 INCH REBAR IRON; THENCE SOUTH 77 DEGREES 36' 51" EAST A DISTANCE OF 609.46 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING AND CONTAINING 0.91 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

DESCRIPTION TAKEN FROM SURVEY OF H.D. HARRIS, REG. NO. 5742, DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 2001.

Said property is commonly known as 7090 Co Rd 1082, Vinemont, AL 35179.
Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.

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City of Cullman
Planning Commission

On Monday November 4, 2024, at Cullman City Hall Auditorium at 5:30 P.M, at the regular meeting of the City of Cullman Planning Commission, a public hearing will be held to allow affected parties to voice their concerns related to the following items:

1. Rezoning request on 3rd Avenue SE – Old Edwards Place – R-1 to R-4
2. Conditional use request – 112 Denson Avenue NW – move house to address
3. Short form subdivision – 14th Street SE & Welti Road SE – create two lots
4. Short form subdivision – 2126 2nd Avenue NW- combine two lots into one lot
5. Conditional use request - Brantley Avenue NW – modular office building

For further information contact Brian Landreth or Amber Duke at the City of Cullman Building Department at 256-775-7203.

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Reserve your spot for annual Senior Christmas Party

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Commission on Aging (COA) will host its annual Senior Christmas Party for Cullman County residents 55 and older on Wednesday, Dec.18, at Wallace State Community College's Tom Drake Coliseum. Reservations to the annual favorite event must be made by Wednesday, Dec. 4. This is a completely free event

COA Executive Director Stephanie Lawson said the Christmas party is by far the largest event for the senior community and is hosted by the COA and the Donald E. Green Active Adult Center.

"In addition to the free lunch provided at this event, seniors turn out for the wonderful door prizes donated by elected officials and local businesses," Lawson said

"If a local business is interested in being recognized by providing a door prize we would encourage them to call our Events Coordinator, Scott Sarich."

Lawson said the party is just a small token of appreciation for those who have paved the path before us.

"We recognize that Christmas can be a difficult time for some seniors in our community and we want to bring a little happiness to those who might be lonely or struggling during the holiday season," she said.

"Also, we like showing our appreciation to those seniors who come out and support the programs offered to them by one of the Commission on Aging full-time senior centers and/or the Active Adult Center. Our hope is if seniors attending this event do not already take advantage of the services offered by our agencies that they will become involved."

Since taking over as director in 2021, she said, the Christmas party has been held at Stone Bridge Farms; however, this year the party is moving to Wallace State's Tom Drake Coliseum. Stone Bridge will still be catering the meal.

"Wallace State will offer more seating capacity; therefore it is not anticipated that anyone will have to be turned away," Lawson said.

"However, reservations are still mandatory in order to ensure enough food is ordered. This year we are also offering 'fast entry tickets' to be picked up during the week of Dec. 9, at the Commission on Aging office.

"This has confused some in thinking that there is a cost to attend, but this is still a free event. The purpose behind the fast entry tickets is to speed up the process in getting seniors through the door."

The COA began accepting reservations for the party on Sept. 3 and will cut off reservations on Wednesday, Dec. 4.

The Senior Christmas Party will take place Wednesday, Dec. 18, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (doors open at 9), at Wallace State Community College's Tom Drake Coliseum

To reserve your seat or for more information, call 256-734-1241.

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Obituary Announcements: Oct. 29-30

Carl Wayne "Porter" Wagner, 65
Carl Wayne "Porter" Wagner, age 65, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024, at Cullman Regional Medical Center, surrounded by his family. He was born on Dec. 29, 1958, to Buster and Erlene Wagner. He was married to the love of his life, Rhonda Hancock Wagner, for forty-four years. He was a loving father to his two pride and joys, Mandy (Tony) Hamm and Bobby (Courtney)Wagner. He was a loving pawpaw to his five grandchildren, whom he thought did no wrong, Shelby and Colby Hamm, and Colton, Kymberlee and Cameron Wagner. All of his grandchildren thought he could have hung the moon, if they just asked. He was a brother to Dennis Wagner, Bruce (Denise) Wagner, Ernie (Lynn) Wagner, and Wanda (Chuck) David. He was a truck driver and loved being behind the wheel. He loved golfing any chance he had. He was a soft and gentle soul who loved his family immensely and a friend to all. He was loved by all who met him. He was preceded in death by his father, Buster Wagner, sister, Wanda David, and mother and father-in-law, Ella and Bob Hancock. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of Mr. Wagner's care. No services are planned at this time. Obituary lovingly written by Mr. Wagner's family.

Patricia Grady Choi, 83
Patricia Grady Choi, age 83 of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024, after a long battle with Alzheimer's. She finally found peace and stepped into Heaven to be with her Lord and Savior. Pat was born on Sept. 21, 1941, in Jefferson County, Alabama to Mr. James Grady and Mrs. Clara G. Lovvorn. She was preceded in death by her Parents and one brother, Mike Grady of Birmingham. Pat was raised in the East Lake area of Birmingham, by her Uncle and Aunt, Johnny and Mable Blanton, while her mother was away serving and working with War efforts for many years. She was baptized at young age while attending Lake Highland Baptist Church, and was a member there for many years. After graduating from Woodlawn High School she married and had one son, Richard Busby. Ten years later she divorced and moved to Nashville Tennessee to live with her cousin Carolyn (James) Hines and their four children. She moved her Church membership to Park Avenue Baptist Church in Nashville. She was employed at the Aladdin Corporation for 3 years. After a couple of church tours to Honolulu, Hawaii, Pat found a job on the Island and decided to move there with her son along with her cousin, Susan Hines. She worked for a Law Firm in the daytime and Department stores at night to survive in a very expensive city. Pat was always in Church and she moved her membership again to Waialae Baptist for the past 47 years. In 1980 she found her perfect Husband and married Mr. Cedric Choi. She continued working in the Law Firm and attended Real Estate School at night. In a few short years, she was able to open her own Luxury Real Estate Company and was soon known as the Leader in Luxury Real Estate. She became recognized as one of the top 50 Realtors in the United States and the Number One Realtor in Honolulu for 20 years. Pat also contributed and raised funds for the Women's Center, Schools and Hospitals. She was a very giving person and enjoyed helping others to recover and start new. She enjoyed her life to the fullest and used her energy and talents to serve others every opportunity given. Pat will be greatly missed by her Family and Friends here in Alabama and west 5,000 miles away in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Pat is survived by her husband of 44 years, Cedric Choi, of Honolulu, Hawaii and one son of Cullman, Alabama, Richard (Debbie) Busby. Best Friend and close Cousin, Ms. Billie Lacey. Grandchildren: Sherry (Justin) Murphree, Brandon (Natasha) Busby, Katie (Seth) Wheeler. Great Grandchildren: Braxton, Macy, Liam Murphree, Ethan and Emma Busby, Paris Busby. Nieces: Carol (Robert) Wingard, Annette (Ricky) Love, Sharon (Joel) Windham. All her Grandchildren affectionately called her "Buddy-Pat." In Lieu of flowers, the family ask that donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association by calling the 24/7 helpline at 800-272-3900. Please inform them that the donation is in memory of Patricia Choi and restricted to the state of Alabama. Services for Pat will be held Sunday, November 3, 2024 in the Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel, 1901 2nd Avenue, NW, Cullman, Alabama 35055. Brother Gayle Lombard of Crossville, Alabama officiating. Family will receive friends for a visitation from 1 p.m. until the service time at 2 p.m. There will be food and fellowship to follow. Please share condolences and memories with the family at: www.mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

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THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!

Trunk or Treat (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Thousands of people lined up for the annual Cullman Police Department Trunk or Treat event on Tuesday evening.

Police Chief Joey Duncan said last year's event saw 60,000 pieces of candy given out.

This year, the department distributed 70,000 to the kids who attended.

"We expected around 3,000 visitors this year, but we saw much closer to 4,500-5,000 people," he said.

"We had officers and their families dressed as mad scientists, aliens, Bluey and the Bandit, Elf and many more."

Merchants Bank was the sole sponsor for the candy for the event, which also featured music, police vehicles, fire trucks, a helicopter and a showing of the movie "Coco."

On Wednesday, Duncan shared, "We stayed until 9 p.m. last night, until the last child went through the line. We almost ran out of candy again this year.

"This was the biggest trunk or treat we've ever had.

"Thank you so much to everyone for coming out!"

Holly D. (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Tribune's Pet of the Week is Holly D., an approximately 3-year-old girl who demonstrates that when life gives you lemons, you should make lemonade!

She is a lab mix with low to medium energy. Holly D. is an unassuming gal who longs for your companionship but is comfortable enjoying some alone time outside.

She likes to gallop about and stretch her legs, then sit close to you.

Holly D. is up to new challenges, which she'll achieve with your encouraging words. She is truly an amazing companion/therapy/hiking/reading dog who has stolen the hearts of those taking care of her at the shelter.

The wonderful Holly D. is eagerly awaiting your visit so she can enjoy creating a new life with you.

Visit the shelter at 935 Convent Road NE. It's open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Her adoption fee includes spay, DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet and microchip.

Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmananimalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

If you come by to meet Holly D. and she's already found her forever home, Holly D. says, "Don't forget about my friends.

"They need homes, too. Please help them."

Good Hope (from Front)

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — The Good Hope City Council held its final October meeting at Good Hope City Hall Monday night and approved a new resolution have a traffic study done on County Road 437 from the Interstate 65 ramps to Day Gap Road.

The City is contracting with Waggoner Engineering, Inc. for $30,000 to perform the study, which will be conducted over eight weeks with particular focus being put on several intersections:

• I-65 NB ramps at CR 437 (unsignalized) (12-hour count)

• I-65 SB ramps at CR 437 (signalized) (A.M. & P.M. peak hour)

• CR 437 at Hathcock Road (unsignalized) (A.M. & P.M. peak hour)

• CR 437 at Town Hall Drive (unsignalized (A.M. & P.M. peak hour)

• CR 437 at Good Hope School Road and Beech Grove Road (signalized) (A.M. & P.M. peak hour)

• CR 437 at Day Gap Road (unsignalized) (A.M. & P.M. peak hour)

• Beech Grove Road at Day Gap Road (unsignalized) (A.M. & P.M. peak hour)

Resolution No: 024-2024

WHEREAS, the City of Good Hope is extending Daystar Drive for the safety in the area of Beech Grove Road and County Road 437;

THEREFORE, in accordance with engineering guidelines the City of Good Hope intends to go into Professional Service Agreement for a Traffic Study on County Road 437 in the Day Gap Road area all the way to the 1-65 ramps;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the city council of the City of Good Hope states that Jerry Bartlett, Mayor, is hereby authorized to execute these contract documents related to this project for the amount of $30,000.00 to be paid out of Economic Development, upon execution of said contract the full agreement will become a part of this resolution.

After receiving a recommendation from the City's Alcohol Review Committee, the council also approved an off-premises beer and wine license application for the Love's Travel Stop & Country Store currently being built at Exit 305.

In its last piece of business at Monday night's meeting, the council held its first reading of an ordinance that would rezone 24 acres of land at 95 Trimble Drive from Residential (R2) to Agricultural (Ag).

The Good Hope City Council will hold its next meeting Monday, Nov. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Good Hope City Hall.

Abatements (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City Council on Monday, Oct. 28, approved tax abatements for three industrial projects:

• "Project Vance" for a major addition to the local REHAU facility with a capital investment of $43 million. The Cullman Economic Development Agency said this is "an equipment purchase/upgrade expansion for REHAU for new Mercedes Benz production. REHAU won the contract to supply parts for a new SUV. The investment provides continued employment for an estimated 63 associates." This will allow the local facility to retain jobs that would have been moved to one of REHAU's multiple other plants. CEDA Director Dale Greer said, "Project Vance abatement approval would waive $2,465,190 in taxes over 10 years but generate $2,352,100 for city schools over the same time frame."

• PGI Holdings, LLC, for a new industrial project with a capital investment of $1.05 million. CEDA said Hayden-based Precision Graphics, Inc. is buying out Modernistic Printers on Main Avenue in Cullman, and that the investment "in building upgrades and equipment to increase printing capacity" will create from three to five new jobs. Greer added that an estimated $56,475 will be generated for city schools over the next 10 years.

• Inland/Schulte Building Systems to extend a 2021 abatement until May 1, 2025, as it increases its capital investment from $3.4 million to $4 million. CEDA said, "The original abatement led to the creation of 50 new jobs on the $3.35 million investment. Inland/Schulte requested the extension due to construction delays, supply chain issues and rising cost." CEDA estimated that $210,320 in taxes will be collected from Inland, beyond what has been abated.

Tax abatements involve temporary forgiveness or refund of a portion of a company's annual tax debt, to offset the cost of that company's investment in its local production or business activities that create jobs and boost the local economy.

Property taxes are measured in millage: one "mill" equals 1/10 of one cent. The State of Alabama assesses property taxes at 6.5 mills, or $6.50 per $1,000 of value. Cullman County assesses at 26 mills or $26 per $1,000, half of which is earmarked for education. The City of Cullman assesses at 38.5 mills or $38.50 per $1,000, with 20.5 earmarked for education.

Tax abatements cannot reduce the education portion of the tax. That must be paid, regardless of other incentives. This means that on a $100,000 property, the County can abate $1,300 dollars in property taxes per year for 10 years while continuing to collect and keep $1,300 per year in taxes to be sent to schools. On comparable property the City can abate $1,800 per year, and will collect and distribute to schools $2,500 per year on that $100,000 property.

Greer told The Tribune about abatements:

• They offset or help offset the cost of constructing or expanding facilities that create jobs and bring more income to the community.

• They forgive or refund a portion of certain taxes (usually property taxes) that the business or industry pays for a certain amount of time. Cullman's standard is 10 years. After 10 years, the company must pay the tax. Even if the company asks for and gets another abatement for a new project or expansion, it must still pay the full tax on its previously abated facilities and equipment.

• They do not take away any responsibility the company has for paying taxes that support education.

• They are commonly used by communities across the country to compete for businesses and industries. If one community does not want to offer financial incentives, plenty more will.

• They do not involve the City giving away to the company any money paid as taxes by residents. The abatement refunds to the company a certain amount of the taxes it has to pay. If the company does not earn enough to pay much in taxes, it does not get much abated. If it does not meet certain standards set forth in the agreement, it sees no abatement.

• CEDA only recommends an abatement after a study has shown that the construction or expansion will create a definite benefit to the City.

Other council business

The council approved ordinances to:

• Rezone property located at 916 Parker Ave. SW from R-3 to R-2 Residential District

• Annex Pioneer Land Acquisitions, LLC property located on U.S. Highway 31 and County Road 715 as a B-2 Business District

• Adopt an electronic records management policy for the City of Cullman

• Vacate and surplus a portion of Lot 1, Block 5 of the Ratliff Hancock Subdivision, Bauers Addition, which is owned by the City

• Confirm and ratify the levy of taxes for educational purposes in the city of Cullman. This ordinance did not create new taxes or raise existing taxes, but renewed the City's standing plan for support of the city school system.

The council also approved a resolution to award a bid for a 4WD crew cab work truck to Mitch Smith Chevrolet in the amount of $51,250.

The Cullman City Council meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. in the Cullman City Hall auditorium. The public is invited to attend.